

June 18 18

Manuscript-Yula Durrett.

W. Va.

Pocahontas County,

Town of Durbin.

Mountainous on N. S. and W. narrow valleys N. and S. along Greenbrier River, which marks S. boundary; fertile narrow valleys reaching back into the hills, area 5 sq. miles; population 1000.

Hills wooded, pine and maple, scrub oak numerous; pasture and sheep grazing, clear running brooks, trout plentiful, (April, May and June).

Named for Charles Durbin, who originally owned all the land. The town was incorporated 1905.

U. S. 250 enters N. W. at West Durbin crossing W. branch of Greenbrier, well designed bridge and approach view from Cheat Mt. above town. Branch lines of the Chesapeake and Ohio and Western Maryland R. R. parallels W. branch of Greenbrier River freight and passenger. U. S. Forest Service Ranger Station Greenbrier Dist. located in center of the town. All hunting and fishing information gratis. Large graded school. Me. Ep. and M. E. So. churches. Pocahontas Tanning Co., (largest in the world). Frank is the Post Office for Tanning Co. Wilmoth and Durbin Hotels.

Following U. S. 250 one mile from Durbin and Frank is the small town of Bartow. Named for Gen. Bartow, a confederate general who was killed at the first battle of Bull Run. On December 12, 1861 the battle of Bartow was fought,

This was a minor battle of the Civil War.
Here the road forks at the foot of Allegheny Mt. U. S. 250
crosses State 28. (U. S. 250 is the Old Staunton and Parkers-
burg Turnpike, State 28 is the Old GreenBank Road). Travelers
Repose, the home of B. B. Beard, located here, use to be a
Tavern where the stage coaches changed horses. Driving over
250, (a new hard surface road) is a beautiful mountainous drive
for 17 mile to Va. State line.

At the forks of the road, if one wishes you can follow the
original Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike for nine miles. The
old road is still used as rural mail route for Staunton to Durbin
mail. At top of the mountain is the old Dunkard Church, built
in 1900. One of the peculiarities of the church, is the pulpit
is placed just inside the door and the congregation faces the
entrance of the church.

Opposite the church is an old battlefield. Here the Alle-
gheny Mt. battle was fought Dec. 13, 1861. The Confederates had
a winter camp on top the mountain for five months with Gen. W.
W. Loring and Col. Edward Johnston in command. You can see
piles of stones placed at regular intervals which represent
the chimneys of the log cabins, where the soldiers were quart-
ered. Trenches, fortifications and graves of the soldiers,
which are now just mounds no markers, can be seen. The land
is now used for pasture.

Coming back to the forks of the road State 28 follows the
E. branch of the Greenbrier River. Three miles from Travelers
Repose is a permanent C. C. C. Camp, Camp Thornood. (Camp No.
P-6). The young men in this camp assist in the care of Green-
brier Division of the Monongalia National Forest. This is an

--- Dear and Michael went

example of a model camp.

Five miles from the camp is the Smoke Camp Tower, manned by Camp Thornwood. The government road from camp to tower is called Long Run and Smoke Creek Roads. Continuing on State 28 you drive through the National Forest to Pendleton County line.

Yula Durrett.

19, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

23

Pocahontas

-1-

Chapter 4- Section 4- Part a

Dunmore.

There is no locality in the county richer in local history than Dunmore. There is a well founded tradition that the name Dunmore was bestowed by the Englishman William Warwick, who had the land as a grant from the crown through Lord Dunmore as Governor of Virginia. Lord Dunmore became so unpopular that he was forced to flee the colony at the start of the war for independence. On this account the name fell into disuse and the place was known as Mathewsville for a couple of generations. Sampson Mathews, the son-in-law of Jacob Warwick and then his son owned it. Some sixty or seventy years ago a part of the plantation was bought by the late Isaac Moore and a storekeeper named Dunkum. Dunkum, who was postmaster proposed that they use his name for the place in the place of Mathewsville. It didn't sound as good as some names to Mr. Moore, so he, knowing the original historical name proposed a compromise by the combination of Dunkum and Moore into Dunmore.

Sitlington Creek is named for Robert Sitlington, a native of the north of Ireland who married Elizabeth Dunlap Warwick, widow of William Warwick and mother of Jacob Warwick. He moved to Bath County about the year 1770.

Michaels Mountain was named for Michael somebody who was either a real sportsman ready to give his name a chance or a short sport intent on saving ammunition. He was a bear hunter and his custom was, when a pack of dogs had stopped the bear, to wade in with his hunting knife and put an end to it. One day the dogs bayed a big bear and Michael went

in on it, but the bear mauled, hugged and bit him to death. This mountain to the south of Dunmore for more than a hundred years has been called Michael Mountain for the unfortunate hunter.

Mr. Price thinks that the man the bear killed was Michael Daugherty. If this is the man, he was an Irish gentleman and considerable of a sporting character. He was a native of Donnegal, belonged to the landed aristocracy, had been educated for a priest, fell out with his step-mother, received his part of the estate in cash, came to America, and took up a big estate on Knapps Creek. He had some colored servants and to this day there are colored people by that name in this county. However, his main dependents were white bond-servants, whom he could buy at regular sales held at Staunton, Lynchburg and Richmond. These people would mortgage their liberty for a stipulated number of years in order to purchase passage from the old country to the land of freedom. They would then be auctioned off to the highest bidder for their services for the time specified in the contract. The country is filled with the descendents of these hardy men and women who sold themselves into bondage that they and their children might enjoy a freedom denied them in their native land. Among these and their descendents were and are the very salt of the earth. There were other white bond servants sold too, such as law breakers and possibly debtors. The number of stalwart men who bought their passage to this part of the new world on time were numerous enough to be the rule rather than the exception. The old Poage patriarch

thought that the fact that he was able to pay for the passage of all his numerous family was sufficient distinction to have it made a matter of public record.

In 1751 Colonel Lewis made the first survey of Greenbrier Valley at Marlinton. This survey is a few days older than the survey at Renick. Not long after William Warwick of Williamsburg, an army officer, took up the fine lands on the creek now called Sitlington. It couldn't have been long after because in 1765 Warwick's widow had married Robert Sitlington. Mr. Price has a copy of a letter from Robert Sitlington to his brother John in Ireland. This letter was written in 1765, and the place is Greenbrier. Mr. Price thinks it more than likely that this Greenbrier was Marlinton, as here was the location of Fort Greenbrier. At times a large garrison was maintained here. Robert Sitlington was undoubtedly writing from Dunmore, because he moved from there to his plantation on the Cowpasture when the Warwick lands were turned over to his step-son Jacob Warwick upon his becoming of age. Jacob Warwick ~~Warwick~~ was living in Dunmore in 1774, when he went to fight the Indians at Point Pleasant, the first battle of the Revolutionary War. All of his children were born at Dunmore, and he started to move to Kentucky from there. He was halted on Big Sewell Mountain by an Indian raid and massacre and he returned. He then bought the Clover Lick plantation from the Lewises, and established his homestead there. Much of the Clover Lick plantation is still in the possession of his descendants.

The age of the Dunmore survey can be had from the fact that Robert Sitlington was living there in 1765; that the date of the Marlin Bottom survey was 1751; that the Wilson survey, embracing the land in the twenty miles in

between calls for the lines of both the Warwick and the Lewis surveys.

Dunmore was the site of one of the five forts in this region known as Fort Warwick. One was at Greenbank, one at Dunmore, one at Clover Lick, one on Jacksons River and one on Tygarts Valley. The Fort at Dunmore was situated about where the garage is now.

These old forts or stockades took a lot of ground. Sometimes they were several acres in extent. There was much work connected with building one. Trees were cut into logs about twenty feet long. These logs were split in two and set in the ground six feet or more deep. The middle ground was big enough to hold the horses, cattle and other livestock of the community, which would be driven in on warning that the Indians had come. Feed would be stored in the fort and the stockade built around a spring or across a stream of running water.

No tradition that I can find has come down to the present generation about the fort at Dunmore ever being attacked by the Indians. The settlers, however took refuge there often upon true and false alarms about raiding parties being on the warpath.

The first wagon in Pocahontas County was brought to Dunmore by Major Jacob Warwick. He brought it by way of Warm Springs, Jacksons River, up Little Back Creek, across the Alleghenies to Knapps Creek, where the Harper place now is, up Knapps Creek and down Sitlington Creek, following the general route of the Nancy Hanks Trail. This wagon was burned up by the Indians on one of their raids to Clover Lick.

It is a pretty well established fact that Daniel Boone was a visitor at times at Dunmore. Major Warwick once decided to move to Kentucky. Perhaps Boone helped persuade him. There is a story that Colonel Boone and Major Warwick had a fist fight at Clover Lick. It may have been because of the turning back at Sewell Mountain and it may have been over lands in Tygarts Valley in which both were interested. There is a tradition that Mrs. Warwick was the cause of them turning back at Sewell Mountain and that Boone threw up "petticoat government" to Jacob Warwick and that the fist fight followed.

In pioneer days Dunmore was a busy place, with the fort, store, mills, blacksmith, gunsmith, powder maker and other necessary things required to develop and maintain a great estate in a new country.

The Moores were descendents of Moses Moore, noted pioneer and Indian fighter. There were three Moore pioneers in this county not related to each other.

The McLaughlins settled on Thomas Creek. Squire Hugh McLaughlin sat on the county court for eighteen years. He was influential in putting Pocahontas dry by refusing to license saloons and "ordinaries". This was over ninety years ago. It was one of the first counties to go on the dry list.

There were the McCutcheons. It was said of this family that they were always present and on time at public worship though the churches were at Greenbank and Huntersville, eight and twelve miles away.

Rella F. Yeager

Person

Rella F. Yeager
Pocahontas County
18

checked

Huntersville District embraces the greater part of the eastern half of ~~the~~ Pocahontas County. To the north lies Greenbank District, while in the east it is separated from Highland and Bath Counties in Virginia by the summit of the Allegheny Mountain range, on the south lies Little Levels District and on the west Edray District. West of the center and extending northeast from near Huntersville, almost to the northeast boundary are the Browns Mountains. In the southern part is a series of mountains called the Beaver Lick range. It is crowned by several lofty peaks. Just south of the latter is a level plateau or table land of considerable extent. It was covered at one time with a lofty forest of white pine and is known as the white pine plateau. The pine timber was cut and shipped to various markets and much of the plateau is now of second growth and is owned by the government, in Monongahela forest. Knapps Creek and its tributaries drain the entire surface. The latter are Little Back Creek, Douthard's Creek, Cochran's Creek and Brown's Creek.

The first settlers in this district were Moses Moore, John Bradshaw and Peter Lightner. (Both of the latter have already been mentioned in former papers sent in.) They were not long permitted to enjoy the solitude of their lonely homes alone for other pioneers came and settled beside them.

The schools of those pioneer days were what were called subscription or select schools and were usually taught

for a few months in the year by one of the pioneers, who in his youth had enjoyed superior educational advantages. The text books used were Dilworth's Speller and some ^{works} ~~from~~ the Bible as a reader.

The first of these schools "kept" in this district was in a deserted log cabin which stood on the banks of Knapps Creek, not far from where Huntersville now stands. It was a five-sided structure, one side of which was taken up with a huge fireplace. The seats were made by splitting small logs in halves and inserting pins for legs in the oval sides. It is not known who the first teacher was; there is no record. Traditions tell us Mary Moore was the first teacher. The Moores were the first to settle on Knapps Creek and were a prominent family. It is not definitely known who preached the first sermon. Tradition again tells us that it was the Apostle of Methodism,--the noted Bishop Asbury. The names of many pioneer Ministers are remembered and recorded by the old residents.

Everywhere in the settlement of the west the frontier preacher was an important factor and scarcely was the roof of the cabins made fast before the Methodist Circuit rider or the Baptist Missionary made his appearance, collected the neighbors, preached a sermon, left an appointment for some time, perhaps a year in the future; then after a friendly farewell he continued his journey to another settlement.

Among those who first visited Pocahontas County were the Reverend^s James Avis, John Miller, Amos Smith, J. W. Kenney,

James Watts, Samuel Ellis, William McDowell, Elisha Knox, James Kerr, William Houston, Harvey Lawyers, N. Pendleton and John Howe.

The first Presbyterian Church at Huntersville, was organized by Rev. Mitchell D. Dunlap in 1854. Among the first members were Hugh McLaughlin, Sr. James A. Price, George E. Craig. A house of worship was erected the same year on the 12th day of August 1854. William Gammon, Benjamin Herold and James T. Lockridge, on behalf of the Church contracted for erection of a Church for \$1,846.00.

The Methodist Episcopal Church (South) of Huntersville was organized in 1866 by Rev. P. S. E. Sixes. Before the division of the Church in 1844 into Northern and southern branches, the Methodists had an organization at this place but the Huntersville Church then belonged to what was known as the Levelton Circuit.

Mount Vernon Church, built in 1850 was the first ever erected on Knapps Creek. For its erection \$400 was raised by subscription and the remainder was paid by Andrew W. Moore, Moses Moore and Preston Moore. It was dedicated in June 1852 and the Rev. John McClure became its first pastor. During the war between the states called by some the Civil War, the soldiers made a barracks of the Church and at one time threatened to burn it but were prevailed upon to desist such an act of vandalism and today its stands as monument of the religious zeal and Christian enthusiasm of generations now passed away.

Among the first members were Leonard Heron, Jennie Heron,

George Rider, Harvey Curry, Mary A. Curry, Moses Moore, Isabella Moore, Preston Moore, Andrew Moore, Anna Moore and Elizabeth Lightner. George Rider was the first Class Leader.

Huntersville was the only town in the district at that time but in later years Frost has become a small town. Huntersville was laid out in 1821 and was the County Seat until it was moved to Marlinton after it had become a small town, by the vote of the people.

Huntersville is situated on the left bank of Knapps Creek six miles from its mouth. It is surrounded on all sides by lofty mountains and has, perhaps, more the appearance of an Alpine village than any other town in the State. Its elevation 1900 feet above seal level.

Moses Moore already mentioned as one of the first settlers located on Knapps Creek more than one hundred years ago,--at least one hundred and fifty years ago-- as is attested by records. There was an old Indian trail or Valley Draft as it was once called, by which the Indians traveled when on their missions of blood to the settlements on Jacksons River and in the Shenandoah Valley.

This trail led near by where Moses Moore settled on the land once owned by his grandson Andrew W. Moore. As might have been expected it was not long before he was carried into captivity ^{by Indians.} but made his escape and returned to his mountain home. Twice more before the savages were stayed beyond the Ohio River he was carried a prisoner to their towns on the Scioto River.